

Him who "now sitteth at the right hand of God ;" the power of ordaining Ministers, of authorising them to preach, of superintending their discharge of duty, and overseeing the whole flock of Christ, rests with that succession of Bishops who have ruled the Church since the days of the Apostles,* and whose sanction is indispensable to "the work "of the Ministry, to the edifying of the body "of Christ."

This general principle having been laid down, a question naturally arises, how far the duty of obedience is affected by the cessation of inspiration;—for our Church, though trusting that we are still called to the Ministry by the Holy Spirit, directing our understandings and influencing our hearts, and still guided by Him in the discharge of our functions as long as we humbly seek his guidance,—rejects all pretensions to sensible calls, direct revelations, or miraculous communications from Heaven; and being thus left to the direction of the human mind, enlightened and assisted by those ordinary gifts of grace which are common to all true believers,—the Ministers and Governors of the Church are liable to error, and the Church itself is not infallible.

But, if we will look at this question without prejudice or passion, we shall surely see that the fallibility of the Church, and of its Ministers, does

* We challenge all opponents to produce evidence that any form of polity other than Episcopal, has prevailed in the Church from the days of the Apostolic men, to the era of the Reformation.